

Press Release



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Sharp-tailed Grouse Blind Reservations Available Now

As spring rapidly approaches and the daylight hours lengthen, a spring dance starts to occur on the rolling prairie of The Nature Conservancy's Cross Ranch Nature Preserve, located seven miles south and west of Washburn. Join us this year by reserving a front row seat for the amazing spectacle put on by sharp-tailed grouse as they do their annual mating ritual on selected sites throughout the Cross Ranch property. Listen to the low strumming as the dancing males inflate purple air sacs on their necks. Watch the intricate dance steps their feet make, as they stomp through a ritual so timeless and powerful that it inspired the Dakota tribes to utilize it in their own celebrations.

The viewing blind, built by volunteers, is sponsored by Cross Ranch State Park and The Nature Conservancy. Viewing starts in early April, and will run until early May. Blind users must be prepared to be in the blind by dawn, and will need to be suitably dressed for cold weather conditions. While there is no charge to use the blind, advanced reservations are required because of limited space. Bison may be in the area around the blind so visitors are cautioned not to startle them or pose a threat to their calves.

For more information or to make reservations, contact Cross Ranch State Park at (701) 794-3731, or by email at dcwinter@nd.gov.